

Interview # 1: April 29, 1974, 3:00 P.M.

Schiller

Informant: Miss Avis Grant

Address: 1600 Hinman, Evanston

Age: About 60 years

Location: Staff Lounge, Northwestern Library

1Q) I'm just looking for general information, if you have specific facts that's fine, but impressions, remembrances, and so on are good. Were you born in Evanston?

A) No, in Chicago, I worked in Evanston. I lived in Rogers Park.

Q) Oh, Cathy (Schiller's Fiancee) lives in Rogers Park. On North Rogers.

A) Does she! I used to live there. But its very much changed now. I used to ride the Chicago street cars. They were very dependable. Why, every 5 or 6 minutes it seemed like a car was going by.

2Q) Was it a direct line from Chicago into Evanston?

A) Its just like now, you go to Howard Street in Chicago and then picked up the Evanston Line. There was no direct line. I enjoyed the cars very much. They were roomy and had standing room, not like the buses. They were better than the buses.

3Q) So you didn't actually live in Evanston?

A) No, but I do now.

Q) If I might ask a personal question, about how old were you when the trolleys stopped running?

A) Oh, that's too personal, you shouldn't ask a lady's age.

Q) Well, Twenties would be alright.

A) (She laughs)

Q) How about young?

A) Okay.

Q) And you worked in Evanston?

A) Yes.

4Q) What kind of job did you have?

A) Where are you publishing this paper?

Q) Oh, its Just a paper for a class.

A) Oh, I see, well I worked for the Family Welfare Association. I think that's their name. I think they've changed it now.





5Q) Where did you get off when you went to work?

A) I think Church Street, yes Church Street. The Welfare Association was a little north of that, on Maple I think. But now they've moved to Davis, or is it Church. What Street is Weibolt's on?

Q) Church.

A) Yes, it's on Church.

6Q) Did you go into Evanston for any other reasons besides work, you know picnics, etc.

A) Oh yes, for shopping and such.

7Q) Did your parents use the line?

A) Yes, they came up often.

8Q) Did your father also work in Evanston?

A) No, he worked in Chicago and used the Chicago line, but you want to know about Evanston.

Q) No, that's alright.

9Q) When did you use the line? When you went to work? 9:00 A.M., 8:00 A.M.?

A) In the morning I went to work about 8:30 A.M. and came back at 5:00 P. M.

10Q) Were the cars crowded?

A) Well, sometimes. It depended. But they weren't as crowded as the buses.

11Q) How often did they run. Was it a good system?

A) Oh yes, they ran often and well. Very dependable. But they were very noisy and the people who lived near the tracks complained. But, I didn't live near them. The buses are quieter.

Q) Better than the buses' pollution.

12Q) Do you remember what the fare was?

A) I think it was 7¢, but I'm not sure.

13Q) Did you use the transfer at Howard Street? Was there another fare?

A) No, I walked to Howard Street and picked up the line there.

14Q) Was there a conductor and a Motorman? Anybody else?





A) No, I think there was just those two, the conductor and the motorman.

15Q) Did the conductor walk down the center aisle to take fares, or how did it work?

A) I'm not sure, but I think you paid at either the front or the rear. I don't think it was in the middle. Perhaps you paid as you got on.

16Q) About how long did the trip take from Howard Street to where you got off, at Church?

A) Ten or 12 minutes.

17Q) Where did the Trolley stop? Did it have regular stops?

A) No, it stopped at every street corner, wherever people stood and waited for it.

18Q) How did you get it to stop, pull a cord?

A) Yes, you pulled a cord to stop.

19Q) Was it one fare for the whole line?

A) Yes.

20Q) Did you travel beyond Church Street- up to Central?

A) Oh, yes. We went up Central for picnics to the forest preserve.

21Q) Where was that?

A) It was past Memorial Park Cemetery.

Q) Is that in Evanston or West?

A) I'm not sure. I remember it was near Ridge Road. Not Ridge Ave. here in Evanston. There is another one. I think we had our picnics just west of Crawford.

22Q) Were there summer cars?

A) I don't think so. I don't remember any. I think we just rolled down the windows of the closed cars. I do remember riding on the outside platforms when it was hot.

23Q) Do you remember about how fast the cars went?

A) Gosh, that is a difficult question. Oh, 25 MPH I suppose.

Q) Yes, that is hard to tell, it's true.

24Q) Were there any waiting stations along the route?





A) No, I don't think so.

Q) How about at Howard Street, at the end of the line?

A) No, not at Howard Street. I don't remember any.

25Q) I understand that there was a small line that connected with the end of the Evanston line at Crawford and Central that went out towards the Glenview Golf Club. It was called the Dinkie or the Toonerville Trolley. Do you remember this line?

A) The Dinkie?

Q) Yes. Did you transfer to this line to go to the Forest Preserve?

A) I don't know. I'm not sure I remember transferring to another line.

Q) It was a one car line.

A) It could be. But I'm unsure.

26Q) Do you remember how the cars turned around?

A) Well, no. I guess they must have turned around.

27Q) Do you remember any accidents or derailings on the line?

A) No, I don't remember any. You know, they travelled down the middle of the road and people avoided them. No one expected them to jump out at them.

End.

Laurence D. Schiller

